

**Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Bureau of Fire Control and Forestry
Proposed Timber Harvest Summary
Name: WaSF Bliss Hill II Timber SaleTS ECV-8-08-T**

Date Posted: January 9, 2008

End of Comment Period: February 25, 2008

Region:	Central
Recreation District:	ECV
Forest Management District:	5
State Forest:	Warwick State Forest
Closest Road:	off Bliss Hill Road, Royalston, MA
Town:	Royalston, MA

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Stand Description:

The proposed sale consists of a 40 acre White Pine Hardwood Stand (WH4A) on the west side of Bliss Hill Road approximately one half mile north of Baptist Corners in Royalston, MA. Administratively the proposed sale area is part of the Warwick State Forest.

White Pine Hardwood Stand: WH4A, 40 acres of two-storied mature generally poor quality, overstocked, 85+/- year old sawlog size White Pine with a mixed hardwood mid story of younger generally good quality northern hardwoods with scattered patches of Eastern Hemlock. The stand was last harvested in the fifties or sixties. The proposed harvest area is generally flat with few obstacles to harvesting. The intermittent drainages and the fire pond in the northwest portion of the sale area will be afforded buffers and protection as specified by the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Practices Act M.G.L. CH 132. NRCS soil types are not available for northwest Worcester County.

Aesthetic, Recreation Environmental and Wildlife Considerations:

Aesthetic: Directional felling techniques will be utilized to fell designated trees away from the main east west access road running through the lot, away from wetland areas in the northwest portion of the lot and away from bordering private lands as they abut the perimeter of the sale area. Slash will be treated in accordance with Chap. 132 regulations.

Recreation: Unfortunately much of the recreational use of the area has been illegal. Illegal 4WD, motorcycle and ATV use has severely damaged the road infrastructure in the area. Road repairs and stabilization efforts that were started with the 2006 Beech Hill East Timber Sale will be continued as part of the proposed sale. Authorized recreational uses of the area are mainly dispersed forms of recreation such as horseback riding, hiking, hunting, cross country skiing and snowmobiling. Any impacts to the above forms of recreation will be minimal and of short duration. Skid trails as well as the main access roadway will be graded and stabilized following completion of harvest so that they are left in a better condition than currently exists.

Environmental: The main environmental concerns are the presence of a fire pond and some intermittent stream drainages in the western end of the proposed harvest area. Environmental concerns will be addressed through adherence to M.G.L. CH 132 regulations namely the application of appropriate buffers, limiting the number of crossings, designating the location of crossings and specifying the use of poles or the use of a portable bridge as appropriate.

Wildlife: Wildlife will benefit from the proposed harvest in many ways. Through the implementation of proper silviculture the larger healthier dominant trees will remain. Dominant oaks, and “clean Beech” where present in the post harvest stand, will produce larger and better quality mast crops due to reduced competition for nutrients and water, which will benefit many species of wildlife. The availability of browse and cover will greatly increase within a couple of growing seasons post harvest as desirable tree species regenerate in gaps /openings created through tree removals. Where possible, snags will be retained within the mandated constraints of OSHA regulations. Live cavity trees will be retained as replacements for snags that are lost to guarantee the cavity component is maintained in the harvest area.

There are no N.H.E.S.P. areas of concern in the proposed sale area at the present time.

Sale Layout:

The existing east west main access road as well as the favorable topography will result in very few obstacles to sale layout. Main skid roads will be designated to insure crop trees and desirable advanced reproduction are not damaged in the harvesting process. A good size landing area will be created off the main access road at a suitable location near the center of the sale area. Sufficient landing size is important to allow for the efficient sorting of harvested trees which results in greater utilization and ultimately a better quality harvesting operation.

Silviculture:

A reproduction harvest in the form of a shelterwood removal cut will be utilized. The silvicultural objectives will be to remove low quality white pine overstory trees to release better quality mid story hardwood reproduction that was established following the last silvicultural treatment to the stand. A small number of large diameter overstory white pine will be retained as “standards” to retain a very large diameter tree component in the proposed sale area. Mid story hardwoods will be thinned to remove low quality damaged or diseased stems and to improve spacing to favor more desirable future crop trees. Scattered areas lacking acceptable reproduction will be scarified to encourage the germination of better quality replacement reproduction. Harvesting will take place in

a careful controlled manner to protect the desirable crop trees. The management objective is to harvest the present type and to release and manage for natural regeneration of a same type. Little or no difficulty is anticipated in accomplishing the desired objectives.

Park Supervisor: _____

Date: _____

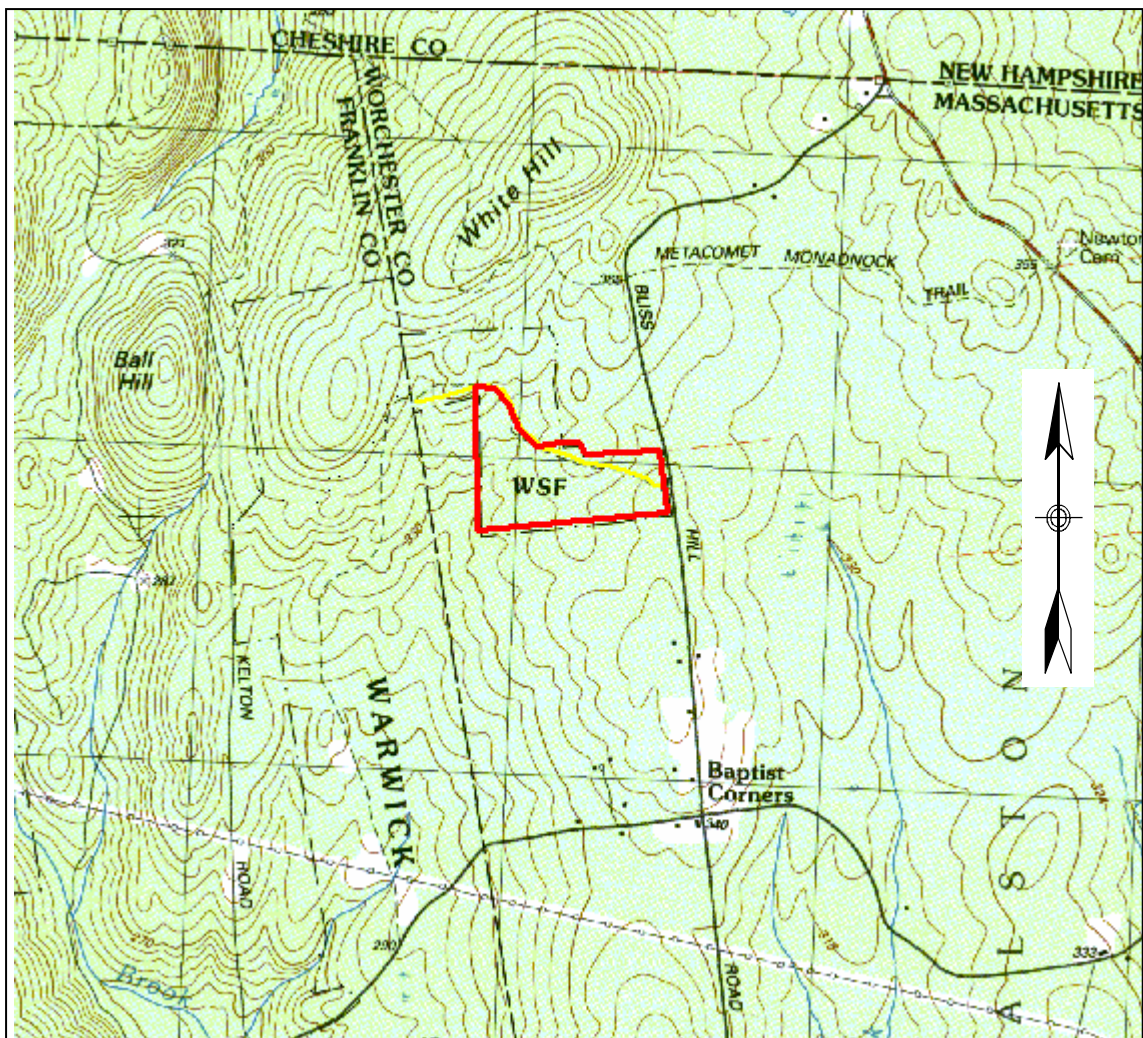
Regional Director: _____

Date: _____

District Forester: _____

Date: _____

MA – DCR, Bureau of Forestry: Pre-Sale Map



State Plane 1983, Mass. Mainland. 2001, NAD '83

SCALE: 1" = 2,000'